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Children's Residential Care Update

JUNE 2009

This is our second quarter *Children's Residential Care Update* for 2009. We are in the seventeenth year of our efforts to keep the children's residential care community informed of licensing programs and services. Your support in sharing this *Update* with colleagues in your organization and others interested in children's issues is appreciated.

Our *Updates* are available online at the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) Community Care Licensing Division (CCLD) website. They can be viewed or obtained at <http://cclld.ca.gov/PG457.htm>.

APPOINTMENT OF JEFFREY HIRATSUKA, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY CARE LICENSING DIVISION

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Jeffrey Hiratsuka as the new Deputy Director, CCLD, effective May 15, 2009.

Jeff has been the Chief, Central Operations Branch in CCLD for almost eight years and has over 36 years of state government experience. Jeff has been in CDSS management for over 15 years and has had the opportunity to work with top level managers of federal, state, and county governments. He has also established excellent working relationships with the wide range of advocates and advocacy organizations that represent licensed facilities and their occupants.

The Deputy Director of CCLD directs the activities of the division, which includes the Central Operations Branch, Technical Assistance and Policy Branch, Child Care Program, Adult Residential Care Program, Children's Residential Program, Senior Care Program, Investigations Branch, and the Continuing Care Contracts Branch.

We congratulate Jo Frederick on her retirement and express our appreciation for her dedication and willingness to stay on as a retired annuitant until an appointment was made.

CHILDREN'S RESIDENTIAL POLICY PRESENTATION GIVEN AT 2009 GROUP HOME CONFERENCE

Have you wanted to understand more about how the CCLD works on your behalf and how to successfully pass a Group Home (GH) audit? This information was shared during a joint presentation by the Children's Residential Policy Unit, the Foster Care Audits & Rates Branch, the Administrator Certification Section, Central Training Unit, and the Caregiver Background Check Bureau at the 2009 Partnership Training and Placement Fair on April 16-17, 2009 at the Hyatt Regency San Francisco Airport. Following is a recap of the information provided by the various presenters.

Mary Kay Deters, Manager of the Financial Unit, and Ray Thomas, Manager of the Program Provisional Unit described types of GH audits, common reasons why GH fail provisional and nonprovisional audits, and provided a list of Certified Public Accountants who have performed GH financial audits. You can find many resources on the Foster Care Audits & Rates Branch website at <http://www.childsworld.ca.gov/PG1338.htm>.

Alan Elner, Analyst, and Charles Boatman, Manager, of the Administrator Certification Section (ACS), discussed monitoring of training for GH administrators as well as recertification and continuing education requirements. They described ACS website enhancements, which include the ability to check application status, confirm the scoring of an initial administrator exam, and review lists of approved training vendors. Future plans for the ACS website include online application, review and approval. You can view the ACS website at <http://ccl.dss.cahwnet.gov/PG471.htm> and reach ACS staff at (916) 324-3755.

Tom Shetka, Chief of the Technical Assistance Bureau, described the training that new CCLD Licensing Program Analysts (LPAs) receive, which is provided in an intensive academy format and annual LPA training, which covers such topics as interviewing children, documentation, and complaint investigations. He also described CCLD manager training and other CCLD training.

Allyssa Erickson, Manager, Caregiver Background Check Bureau (CBCB), described types of exemptions, convictions that are non-exemptible, crimes that require the removal of employees or residents, the factors that are considered when reviewing exemption requests, the Child Abuse Central Index check process, and exemption transfers. You can access CBCB general information and Frequently Asked Questions under Fingerprinting /Background Check Process tab on the CCLD website at <http://ccl.dss.cahwnet.gov/PG404.htm>.

Fernando Sandoval, Manager, Cathy Mouchka, Analyst, and Roberta Williams, Analyst, of the Children's Residential Policy Unit, discussed current and chaptered legislation, using the Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard (RPPS) in foster care, and the application of the RPPS in new draft GH regulations in the early stages of development.

You can obtain a copy of the Children's Residential Policy Unit portion of the presentation by contacting Cathy Mouchka via email at Catherine.Mouchka@dss.ca.gov.

REGULATIONS DOCKET

Foster Family Homes: Notice of public hearing on the proposed Foster Family Homes (FFH) regulations has been posted on the Office of Regulations Development (ORD) website. The public hearing is scheduled for June 17, 2009.

These regulations will implement several pieces of legislation that include: Assembly Bill (AB) 408 (Chapter 813, Statutes of 2003), which entitled foster children to participate in age-appropriate extracurricular, enrichment, and social activities; AB 1116 (Chapter 637, Statutes of 2005) which authorized designated, trained caregivers who are not licensed health care providers to administer emergency medical assistance and/or injections for specific reasons to a foster child in placement; AB 1514 (Chapter 120, Statutes of 2007), which specified that psychotropic medication may be administered to a child who is a ward of the court with a court order; Senate Bill (SB) 358 (Chapter 628, Statutes of 2005) which established the Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard and exempted short-term babysitters from regulatory requirements for criminal background check, health screening, and CPR training; and SB 500 (Chapter 630, Statutes of 2005), which defined a "Whole Family Foster Home" and required a "Shared Responsibility Plan" for a minor parent and caregiver with regard to the minor parent's child.

Smoking in Vehicles and Children's Residential Facilities: The Status Conference on these proposed regulations was scheduled for May 27, 2009. A public hearing is expected to be scheduled for September 2009.

These regulations will implement SB 7 (Chapter 425, Statutes of 2007), which made it unlawful to smoke a pipe, cigar or cigarette containing tobacco or any other plant material in a motor vehicle whether the vehicle is in motion or at rest when there is a minor present.

Public hearing information for the FFH regulations is posted on the ORD website under "Regulation Changes in Process/Completed Regulations", in "Public Hearing Information" at <http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/ord/PG321.htm>. Public hearing information for the Smoking regulations will be posted to the ORD website soon. Interested individuals wanting to comment on the Foster Family Homes or Smoking regulations at public hearing may contact ORD at ord@dss.ca.gov.

If you have questions about these proposed regulations, please contact the Policy Development Bureau at (916) 324-4312.

CHILDREN'S RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM STAFF CHANGES

Please join us in welcoming the following individuals to the management team of the Children's Residential Program:

- Sergio Ramirez, Statewide Program Administrator
- Vincent Herrera, Licensing Program Manager, Northern California Regional Office
- Yan Yeung, Licensing Program Manager, Los Angeles & Tri Coastal Regional Office

U.S. FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION (FDA) FOOD PRODUCT RECALL WEBSITE

The FDA has a page on their website dedicated to temporary recalls, market withdrawals, and safety alerts for food products that may pose health risks if consumed. At this website, the FDA identifies the most significant product actions in the last 60 days, based on how extensively the food products are distributed and the degree of health risk that is posed.

If you purchase and prepare food for the children placed in your facility or home, you are encouraged to visit this website and sign up to receive recall email updates. When you subscribe to this service, you will receive an e-mail message each time there is an update on the FDA page(s) you select. To subscribe, you may click on the link provided below and select the "Sign up for Recall email updates" link.

<http://www.fda.gov/opacom/7alerts.html>

2-1-1 HELP LINE MAY BE AVAILABLE IN YOUR COMMUNITY

There may be a 2-1-1 help line in your community to provide you and the children in your care with critical health and human services information as well as community resource and government assistance. This one-stop help line can provide you with resources for basic needs such as food, clothing, job training, and mental health services

While services that are offered through 2-1-1 vary from community to community, 2-1-1 provides callers with information about and referrals to human services for every day needs and in times of crisis. For example, 2-1-1 can offer access to the following types of services that are appropriate to children's residential facilities and homes:

- **Resources for Physical and Mental Health and Persons with Disabilities:** Medical information lines, crisis intervention services, support groups, counseling, drug and alcohol intervention, rehabilitation, children's health insurance programs, home health care, and transportation.
- **Support for Children, Youth, and Families:** Child care, family resource centers, summer camps and recreation programs, mentoring, and tutoring.

For more information regarding 2-1-1, please go to <http://www.211.org> or <http://www.liveunited.org>.



A SAMPLER OF SUMMER SAFETY TIPS

The official beginning of summer means more children spending time outdoors involved in activities such as bicycling, playing, and swimming. This is also a time when children are more active and susceptible to injury. You may have concerns about hot weather, safety, and illness. Following is a small sample of the information available on both the CCLD website and outside the CCLD website to address your concerns:

- Information about preventing accidental injury, which includes bicycle and swim/water safety information, can be found at the Safe Kids USA website at <http://www.usa.safekids.org/>.
- Health information about E.coli, exposure to heat, and West Nile virus can be found on the CCLD website at <http://ccl.dss.cahwnet.gov/PG535.htm>.

There is much more information available through community organizations, the media, and the Internet. Please enjoy a safe summer!

HELPFUL REMINDERS

Implementation Plans for 2008 Chaptered Legislation Now Online

A summary and implementation plan for pertinent bills chaptered in 2008 that affect children's residential facilities and homes are now available on the CCLD website. Unless otherwise noted in the summary and implementation plan, these bills became effective on January 1, 2009. Licensees are encouraged to review these plans to ensure compliance with the provisions of these bills. If you have any questions, you are encouraged to contact your local licensing office. The implementation plans are online at: <http://ccl.dss.cahwnet.gov/PG830.htm>.

New MyCCL Web Portal for Licensing Resources Now Live

CCLD is pleased to announce that the new "MyCCL Web Portal", the beginning of a web-based licensing information center is now live. This portal provides e-mail alerts, Information Releases, immediate notification of any important changes to health and safety laws and regulations and e-mail broadcasts during a regional emergency situation. To register, please visit MyCCL at: www.myccl.ca.gov.

Electronic Distribution of the *Children's Residential Care Update*

This is the first quarterly *Update* that is being distributed electronically only. If you have colleagues who would like to receive the *Update*, please contact Sunny Lam of our staff at Sunny.Lam@dss.ca.gov or by phone at (916) 322-5502 so that they can be added to

our e-distribution list. Current and prior *Updates* are available on the CCLD website at: <http://ccl.dss.cahwnet.gov/PG457.htm>.

RESIDENTIAL CARE STATISTICS

All of the statistics for state and county licensed Children's Residential Care facilities are available online. When you visit the new CCLD home page at <http://www.cclld.ca.gov>, please click on the "Facility Facts" tab at the top of the page. Click on the "Licensing Statistics" link on the center of the page that appears. Then, click on the desired "State Licensed Facilities by Geographical Area" or "County Licensed Facilities" link on the center of the page. Directories can also be obtained from your local licensing office.

SUMMARY

If you have questions about this *Update* or suggestions for future topics, please contact Gary Palmer, Chief of the Technical Assistance and Policy Branch at (916) 324-4312. Please visit our website at www.cclld.ca.gov to obtain *Updates*, office locations, provider letters, regulations, or to learn more about licensing services. Information about all Children's Residential facilities and homes, including Out-of-State Group Homes and the Statewide County Foster Family Home Program, is available on the CCLD website at: <http://ccl.dss.cahwnet.gov/PG499.htm>.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By Jeffrey Hiratsuka

JEFFREY HIRATSUKA
Deputy Director
Community Care Licensing Division

Attachment